Bequest

Without an explicit political, philosophical or artistic agenda, Gertrud Irene Holzmann had decided to live an autonomous existence in her own way and in its own right, in asceticism and almost complete solitude, retreating from any social interaction except for my visits.

My MFA diploma thesis was devoted to honor and make sense of the last years of the life of my deceased grandmother.

While the surroundings of her *cabin* were not as romantic as Henry David Thoreau's Walden and Holzmann had never been a scholar it was always fascniating to me that her solitude seemed to raise similar questions and observations and they often reminded me of the writings of Max Stirner.

After her death I was surprised that she had left writings of her own and I'm especially interested in lists she must have been obsessed with for a certain period of time

Rarely these are just groceries lists, often they look like auto-didactic study, circling around politics, history and health, I would like to work with these lists, digitalize them and try an analysis of word counts, word proximities and similar approaches.

Usually these are not dated, but some are written on the back of receipts and not only a document of her observations but also of her modest ascetic life.

I want to use these lists as material and data for my final project and combine analytical and associative methods to give an account of what might have been Holzmann's vision and accompany it with my own rmearks and quotes of the works of Thoreau and Stirner.

Technically I want to transcribe & translate the lists and additional information like relative positions on the piece of paper, date (when available), paper format and the information on the receipts.

I'm inspired by the arrangement of names on the Ground Zero memorial and I want to try and achieve a first visualization layer that works only (or mostly) with typography and positioning. For this layer I want to use data on frequency, proximity and topic.

A second layer could be a comparison to media narratives for the lists that have information on date.

On the same layer I want to include references. Sometimes she lists songs, or historic events that I want to include information on.

On a third layer I want to give an account on how I remember her speaking of her observations and references that I associated with them.

Freq.

Prox

Hover: Reference

Picture, original list
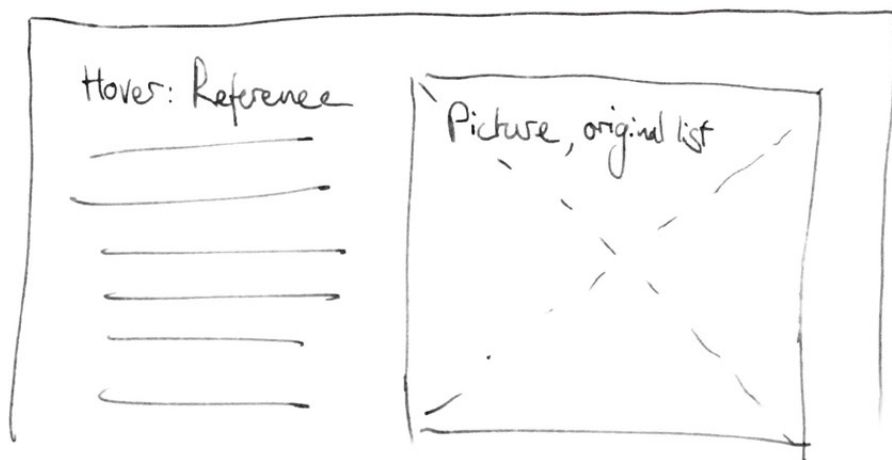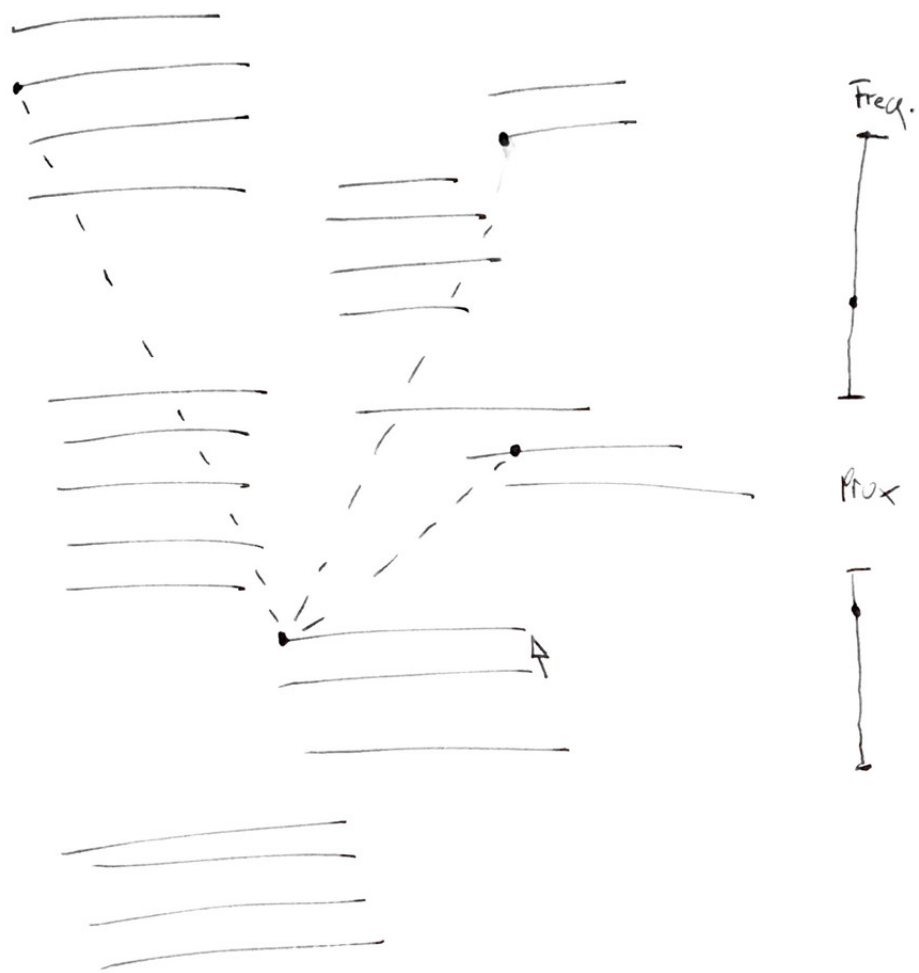
Wer sind die Ratten?
Punk in NY 1974–76.

Originally I was interested in left-wing punk rock in Germany and trying to find a way to use subculture as a measure to mainstream political movements between 1976 and 2006. Punk seemed to be a good indicator, because the subculure was usually active and growing in reaction to conservative or reactionary shifts in mainstream media and politics. My idea was to measure amount of concerts, published records, active bands, significant events as an indicator how strong the movements in mainstream shifts were.

But since I would have to create a rather complex data set myself and look at rather long periods of time, I would prefer to work with a really close focus on the *establishment* of punk in New York from 1974 to 1976 and especially which people and venues were involved and how they were connected to see how many or few people actually created the founding myth of this subculture.

Technically I want to create my own dataset like for idea one and I would start with information on the various lists for example on punk record labels on wikipedia. I would select a sample of people, venues and bands and make lists of their activities between 1974 and 1976. I would want to have a map as one layer and another layer that draws connections between the different actors: Who played together in which bands for example.

I always wanted to do a chord diagram to visualize relations and this would be a good opportunity to learn how to do that.
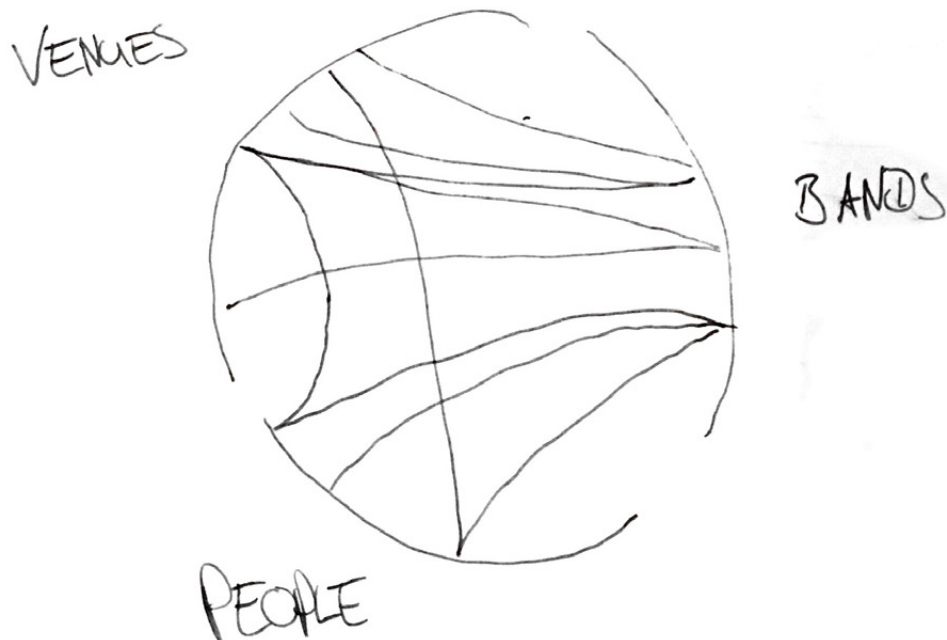
Welcome back *1918*

Thomas Piketty's book "Capital in the 21st Century", contains over 50 graphs and charts. Professor Piketty has published the raw data behind these charts and that data has now been indexed [here](.). (data is behind a registration wall)

In his book Piketty already uses graph extensively to present his findings and to argue for his economic theory.

I want to work with his data but instead of drawing the extensive timeline like Piketty does. I want to find new ways to visualize how different or similar values of indicators for material inequalities are today compared to a hundred years ago.

I'm not sure about my visual strategy at this point, I still have to make more sense of the data for myself. Maybe instead of looking at specific years another approach would be to compare the years of the maxima and minima and compare 2018 to these values.

Throughout the semester I have been trying to find a way to illustrate the change over time in a condensed form and maybe this would be a good dataset to explore this further.